



December 2019



D. Blair Camp  
Mayor

[mayor@murray.utah.gov](mailto:mayor@murray.utah.gov)

801-264-2600

## **New City Offices & Police Station to Finally be a Reality**

In 1906, three years after the incorporation of Murray City, a new city hall and jail was constructed at 4901 South State Street to address the growing needs of the new city. That was the last time Murray built a new city hall. The building served the city well for over 50 years until 1957, when it was deemed no longer adequate to meet the needs of the city. In June of 1957, the city purchased the Soter's Home Furnishings building at 5461 South State and that became home to the city offices in 1958. By 1980 the city had outgrown the old furniture store, and a decision was made to purchase and remodel the old Arlington School, the current location of city hall. Now, 28 years after moving into this 80-year-old building, I am excited that Murray is on the brink of building a new modern structure to house our police department and city offices.

The new city building, which will be located two blocks west of State Street on 4800 South, will not only be a facility that Murray residents can be proud of, but it will breathe new life into an unsightly and underutilized area of our city. We anticipate that this project will spur additional redevelopment and rehabilitation of the surrounding properties.

This project is a long time coming, especially for the nearly 90 members of our police department who are cramped into inadequate space on the second floor of a seismically unstable structure. In addition to all of the departments currently housed in city hall, we will also be including Community and Economic Development in the new building, providing better "one-stop shopping" for customers that need to obtain a business license, submit a building permit, or talk to a city planner. Not to mention the many serious maintenance issues having to be addressed on a regular basis, such as a constantly leaking roof, failing HVAC systems, mold, plumbing problems, and more. It's time for a new city hall.



Several conceptual site plans and building configurations have been considered over the past several years. The decisions surrounding location and configuration of the new city campus involved many factors, especially as circumstances changed. For example, an early discussion of a new building placed over the current 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was abandoned after it was determined that it would be too cost prohibitive to relocate the many utilities that are buried under the street, including a major natural gas line feeding our turbine generators at the power department.

Rising construction costs have also played a major role in the current design. In order to help control costs, the overall square footage of the new building was reduced from 104,000 square feet to 82,000 square feet. A new city court in city hall was eliminated, as was a basement. A community room was removed in favor of designing the council chambers area to be utilized as a versatile multipurpose room. Early plans for a future innovation center were scrapped early in the design process.

Even with these reductions, the budget to construct the new city building increased in the past two years from an estimated \$25 million to \$28 million. The city will be funding the construction by utilizing lease revenue bonds.

I am very excited about the new police department and city offices, including a nice outdoor plaza area to be enjoyed by all. I believe the residents and business owners of our city want safe and efficient public facilities that we can all be proud of!